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SUNDAY
MARCH 14, 1954

I talked to John Hughes on the telephone this morning and arranged to have a further conversation after I have seen Doug's telegram. I stewed all night over the problem of what might be done to retrieve our position in case there is a leak. John says his colleagues in NATO will rage if they discover the French have the text.

Tommy, Ridge and Art Hartman came down to Versailles this morning and we prepared some telegrams. I have an appointment to see Doug at five o'clock.

I saw Doug but had decided by then not to discuss the matter of the French having our text. What is done is done, and if it does not become public or semi-public no important complications should arise. If it does, we will see if we cannot solve them. We talked over the present situation concerning EDC.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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Later, I met our "inner circle" at the house and we are sending off the following telegram tonight:

"Sent: SECSTATE WASHINGTON. COLED 185. PRIORITY.

"LIMIT DISTRIBUTION.

"Re EDCOL 85 and COLED 178.

"Although I have not seen text Bidault's reply to Secretary's letter, it is quite evident that French have made no commitment of binding nature to fix a date before Easter holidays to commence debate. Bidault's proposed tactic of obtaining 'package" for presentation to Parliament before date is decided and announced is extremely risky since it presupposes an almost overnight settlement of the Saar problem with Adenauer. Until settlement is reached, there will be no package to present. Moreover, Bidault's tactic leaves virtually no time to handle Gaullist opposition, discussions in Parliamentary Committee, and debates in Socialist Party Congress. Making definite decision on date of debate only after Saar settlement practically excludes possibility of vote before Easter. Under

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such circumstances the best that could be expected, short of a political miracle, would be for debate to start before April 15, to be interrupted by holidays, and resumed during Geneva Conference. But even this will require more vigor on the part of the Government than it has so far publicly evidenced.

"There were four major conditions that the French Government considered it necessary to regulate before the debate commenced, namely (1) US assurances, (2) UK/EDC association, (3) Saar agreement, and (4) Mollet's insistence on democratic control of EDC. Number one has been substantially met. Number two is ready. Number three has been postponed to an unnecessarily distant time. Number four, Ambassador Dillon tells me that Pidault assured him that he and Mollet had settled the matter satisfactorily.

"If French Government procrastinates much longer it may find itself forced at end of this month to put the affair over at least until after Easter. Without taking firm commitment to us, French now have in hand our assurances. Next week the British may be in a similar position. Only Adenauer may remain somewhat intransigent until the French have fixed a date for debate, because he wishes to retain negotiating leverage so as to be able to force French into position where they must meet definite time schedule.

"In view of present situation where other nations are almost fully committed and French Government remains comparatively free, I strongly recommend that Department reaffirm to French Government our basic position that French Government should set debate in advance of Saar settlement. Only if this is done can we have reasonable assurance that French Cabinet, Parliamentary Committees, Mollet, Pinay, Adenauer and other Foreign Ministers will all make their final concessions. BRUCE."

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I left on the 6:50 p.m. train for Luxembourg, one pocket bulging with sandwiches, the other with a bottle of wine and a copy of Saint-Beauve's essays.

Arrived at the Hotel Cravat after midnight.

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